

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the above-identified Office Action. The above listing of the claims supersedes any previous listing. Favorable reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claim amendments/Status

Claims 1-12, 14-17, 19 and 21-26 remain pending in the application. Of these claims 1, 8, 10-12 and 24, have been amended to delete the term "about". This, as pointed out on page 14, is such as to place the claims in condition for favorable reconsideration as to the patentability of the Applicants' claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

1) Claims 1-4, 9, 14, 17, 19, 21-23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Hantzer (US2003/0062292).

The amendment to at least claim 1 as noted above, is deemed to place the claims in condition for favorable reconsideration and therefore such as to overcome this rejection.

2) Claims 10-12, 15, 24 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hantzer (US2003/0062292) in view of Cody (US6974535).

Inasmuch as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, the above-mentioned amendments are such as to overcome this rejection for at least the reason that claim 1 is deemed to have been clarified over the art applied.

3) Claims 4-8 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hantzer (US2003/0062292) in view of Everett (US5294327).

Inasmuch as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 the above-mentioned amendments are such as to overcome this rejection for at least the reason that claim 1 is deemed to have been clarified over the art applied.

The refutation with respect to the above three rejections submitted in the response under 37 CFR § 1.114 filed with the RCE (March 4, 2008), is also incorporated by reference.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: July 8, 2008
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